GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:296
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
ARTIFICIAL SKIN FROM FISH PELLICLE
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Cochin Scientists have claimed to develop artificial skin from fish pellicle and have asserted that this can be used in curing wounds in burn cases and can also be used in tooth diseases; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to this new invention?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b) According to ICMR, a team of scientists from Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Cochin have reported the use of chitin and chitosan as artificial skin. They claim that micro-fine chitosan powder, impregnated in gauze and films, helps treatment of chronic wounds and external ulcers, and minimizes bleeding in neurosurgery. From Fishery waste, chitin film is prepared to serve as artificial skin over wounds and burns. Further research in this area is required to find out the applications of chitin and chitosan in dental and medical field.